Gas Journal

VOL. 306 113th YEAR LONDON, MAY 31, 1961 No. 5100 PRICE 1/6

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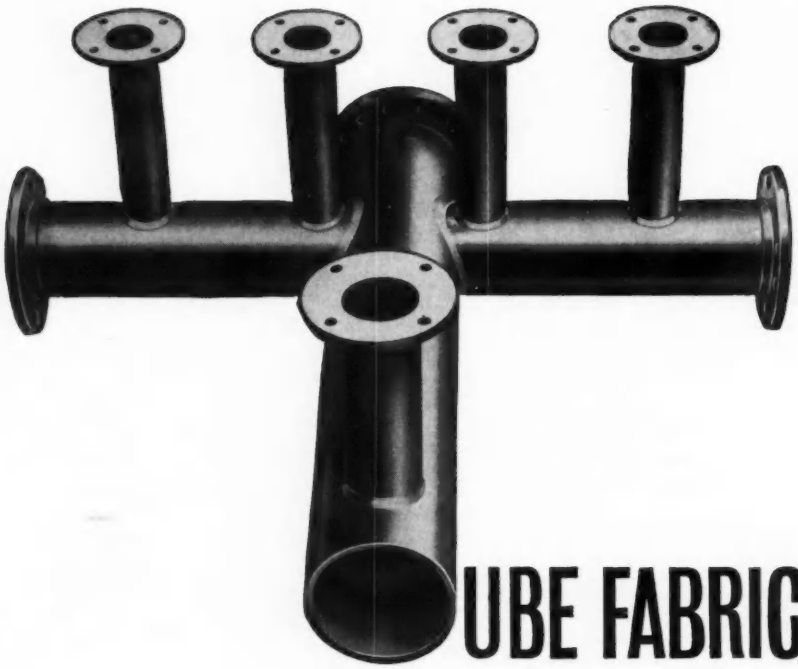

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TO 21″ NOMINAL BORE FOR STEAM, GAS

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OUR TECHNICAL STAFF ARE AVAILABLE TO ADVISE AND WE CAN OFFER A QUICK AND EFFICIENT SERVICE TO USERS OF FABRICATED PIPEWORK

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GAS
IN INDUSTRY

First published in May 1958, to bring to the fast developing industrial gas field the same high technical standard and exclusive qualities associated with the "GAS JOURNAL". In the first 12 months its circulation had reached 5,000. It is still growing fast, and with the new "Journal" distribution this year it well exceeds 8,000 copies monthly.

A FIRST CLASS ADVERTISING MEDIUM FOR ANY FIRM INTERESTED IN THE INDUSTRIAL GAS FIELD

RATES ON APPLICATION

WALTER KING LTD

Publishers of

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11 BOLT COURT, FLEET STREET, LONDON, E.C.4.

Gas Journal

VOLUME 306 • NUMBER 5100 • 113th YEAR

WEDNESDAY, MAY 31, 1961

CONTENTS

EDITORIAL COMMENT

Gas Advertising in Perspective - - - - 337
The 98th A.G.M. in Retrospect - - - - 338

SPECIAL ARTICLE

The Application of Research. By W. H. Johnson - 339

TECHNICAL DEVELOPMENTS - - 340

INSTITUTION OF GAS ENGINEERS 98th ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

Our Camera at the Meeting - - - - - 341

NEWS SUPPLEMENT

Saharan Methane: French Sign Agreement with Gas Council - - - - - - - - 350
Press Visits Lurgi Plant, Westfield - - - - 350
Apprentice of the Year - - - - - - 350
Tar Plant for Australia - - - - - - 350
Newton Chambers' Record Trading Results - - 350
Otto Plant Order - - - - - - - 350
Institution Centenary Show Plan - - - - 351
One Degree Down, but £200,000 Up - - - 351
Miss Therm at New Reading Showroom - - - 351
Southern has Award Scheme for Apprentices - - 351
B.C.U.R.A. Annual Report - - - - - 352
Personal Notes - - - - - - - - 352
Coming Events - - - - - - - - 352
Obituary - - - - - - - - - 352

Editor:
GEOFFREY W. BATTISON

Assistant Editor:
WALTER F. TRUMAN

Technical Editor:
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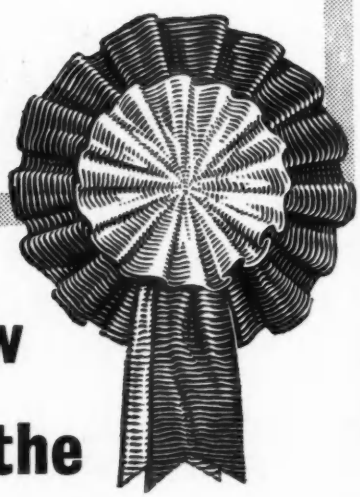
Publishers' Notice, See Page 353.

MAIN leads the way!

first with the all-enamelled cooker in 1927

first with a cooker constructed principally of sheet metal in 1935

pioneers of chassisless cooker construction in 1952



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★ Keeps plates and food really hot!

★ Simplifies serving up. Room for six large dinner plates!

★ And it cooks too! The servery can be used as a supplementary oven for dishes requiring low-temperature cooking.

R. & A. MAIN LTD. *Gothic Works, Angel Rd., Edmonton, N.18, and Gothic Works, Falkirk.*

C252

Gas Journal

COKE OVENS • BY-PRODUCTS • CHEMICALS

Gas advertising in perspective

YEAR by year the business of advertising becomes increasingly specialised, and more remote from many of the people concerned with the sale of the products advertised. Sometimes indeed the latter tend to regard the activities of the advertising specialists as virtually unrelated to their own efforts—a dangerous state of affairs since it suggests lack of direction and co-ordination. Almost always the reason for this is sheer ignorance of the way in which the advertising man works and the way in which the company or board employs his services.

Perhaps it was with the object of avoiding the possibility of such a lack of understanding that the Northern Group Salesmen's Circle of the North Western Gas Board invited Mr. A. H. Edney, General Publicity Manager of the Radiation Group of Companies, to present a survey of advertising in relation to the gas industry marketing concept. They could hardly have picked a better man, for not only has Allan Edney long experience of advertising gas appliances, but since his responsibilities have grown proportionately with those of his company, he is now responsible for advertising a much wider range of equipment, some of it in competition with itself. The danger of thus being torn in separate directions has been overcome by employing advertising managers for each constituent company in the Group, a friendly but competitive team over which Mr. Edney presides with undiminished urbanity. Although responsible for utilising a very substantial total appropriation, necessitating a thorough knowledge of several quite different fields of appliance marketing, and although employing most of the market research aids now available to the advertising man, Mr. Edney has kept himself commendably free from that irritating cloak of mysticism which so often envelops the specialist. Who better then to describe 'The Three Voices of Mr. Therm'—the title relating to advertising by the Gas Council, the area boards and the manufacturers?

Commencing with a justification of advertising (a justification which still seems to be necessary, even in this day and age), the author goes on to analyse the nature of the competition which gas has to face and the extent to which it is outnumbered. Electricity spends twice as much as gas; electrical appliance manufacturers spend nearly five times as much as our own; electricity has 17,000 shop windows against 1,500 for gas. Odds against gas are therefore 11-1. Added to this is competition from the oil and solid fuel industries. The author quotes Mr. Robens who said recently: 'I believe in advertising. I think the man who doesn't advertise is like a man who winks at a woman in the dark. He knows what he is doing, but she doesn't.'

The individual functions and the relationship of the three 'voices' are described in some detail. Clearly the essence of our advertising approach must be to young, married people, the 18-36 age group, and in this endeavour Mr. Edney thinks the industry has made remarkable progress. Most of the praise, he believes, must go to the boards, and he quotes the 'very stimulating' review of gas board advertisements published recently in *Gas Service*. But while he agrees with most of the opinions expressed in that review he questions the 'curious' similarity which, despite the existence of a lively individuality, the reviewer detected in the publicity material under consideration. This evidence of a spontaneous move towards providing gas with a new image Mr. Edney preferred to regard not so much as curious but as essential. 'The three voices of gas *must* approach advertising with the same aim—to coax, charm, interest, stimulate and enthuse over the comfort services provided by the gas industry of 1961 for the homes of 1961.'

Within the limited space available to us here, it is not possible to abstract Mr. Edney's paper satisfactorily. Instead we would like to select certain isolated statements and opinions which we consider particularly worthy of consideration.

First, an 'obvious truth': 'Gas is not bought because people want it. . . . Gas will never be liked for any reason other than what it does. . . . We must establish an image of performance.'

The author remarks that the job of advertising is made all the harder while we continue to have showrooms with at best 'an early nineteen-twenties look,' appliances that have advanced little in design concept since 1939, gasworks that have improved little in appearance since they were first built (they have perhaps improved in *dis*appearance!), and a policy which still does not regard marketing—including selling and advertising

—as being of paramount importance. Mr. Edney quotes the Managing Director of Hoover Ltd. as saying, 'Today and in the future, Sellability, not Productivity, should be the watchword for British industry,' and goes on to suggest that boards of management are often not in balance since they contain too many engineers, accountants and technicians and not enough marketing men.

The author is well aware that it is useless to produce publicity to bring customers into the showroom unless they can find there the modern appliances backed by the modern service they have been led to expect. 'I wonder,' he says, 'whether the 1961 housewife is as impressed by the design and styling of modern gas appliances as she undoubtedly is by their efficiency.' He feels that if there were a greater willingness on the part of the industry to underwrite the high development cost of a new appliance by placing reasonable bulk orders in advance, new designs with better performance would be produced more often, and the ensuing mass production would have a beneficial effect on the selling price.

It should be clear from all this that the scope of Mr. Edney's paper extends well beyond the limits of pure advertising—as indeed it must if the part played by advertising in the selling process is to be properly defined. Advertising is one link in the chain of marketing; any weakness in the other links will render it as useless as if it had itself failed.

The 98th A.G.M. in retrospect

THE Annual General Meeting of the Institution is of course the highlight of the gas engineers' year. The heavy programme of papers and visits makes it difficult perhaps to assess the most outstanding features of the technical sessions at the time, so we feel that to do full justice to the 98th meeting just held in Church House, Westminster, we must consider the meeting in retrospect.

Of the younger contributors our chief comment would be that some of them lack the knowledge not of the subject, but of how to present it to an appreciative, but not necessarily indefatigable, audience. It became all too obvious that a mass of facts, some of them very abstruse, poured out in a stream uninterrupted by a change in the note of the speaker's voice, or even a pause to stress something of outstanding importance, can detract much from the value of the contribution.

There can be little doubt that the first two papers had been eagerly awaited. Dr. Weittenhiller, of Steinkohlengas A.G., Dorsten, in Western Germany, would appear to be the leading authority on total gasification by the Lurgi process in Europe, if not in the world, and the modifications worked out at Dorsten and described in the paper may well have a considerable influence on the design of Lurgi plants now being constructed in this country. We understand that the design of the second stage of the Westfield plant may actually have been modified as a result.

The paper on the gas industry in Russia might well be said to have confirmed what we already knew, at least in part. Earlier this year Dr. A. E. Haffner read a paper to the Scottish Juniors entitled 'Red Gas,' in which he incorporated some most interesting information he obtained while on a visit to Russia. We were at least prepared, therefore, for the almost astronomical figures in the increase in the volumes of gas now available to the consumer in at any rate European Russia. Clearly we had not heard it all, and Mr. A. P. Agishev, of the Ukraine Control Board of the Oil and Gas Industries, brought home to us what the potentialities of natural gas can be when fully exploited, and the truly colossal engineering background that must be built up behind the scenes if these long distance mainlaying projects are to be carried out without a hitch.

The paper on the domestic use of gas in America and Canada by Dr. F. J. Eaton and the other members of his team was useful in putting trans-Atlantic achievements in the use of gas into a truer perspective. Here again the availability of large quantities of natural gas has made possible a previously undreamt of expansion in the American gas industry, and is fast transforming the Canadian industry too. Clearly there is a great deal we can learn from the Americans in extending the domestic use of gas, and it must be our aim to provide ourselves with some source of cheap gaseous fuel to enable us to do so. The success of the gas-fired room heater, the gas-fired central heating boiler and fanned warm air appliances, shows that the British public are equally ready to accept these modern pieces of equipment if the price of gas can be made attractive.

In the paper on the use of radiant heating by gas by Mr. F. J. Brewer and Mr. H. N. Ballantyne we saw one of the basic values of the industrial use of gas brought to the forefront. One of its chief advantages is that it can not only fit into modern production line methods, but can actually influence the design and layout of such equipment to the pecuniary advantage of the firm that employs it. When this basic principle of gas utilisation is properly appreciated some at any rate of the apparent disadvantages of the rather higher commodity price of gas may well be discounted.

The last two papers, both concerned with some aspect of gas production, were for the special delight of the chemist and the gas engineer. Dr. Nicklin and Dr. Brunner, in their paper on the Stretford process, were particularly interesting in that they explained how the outstanding difficulties have been overcome in the really excellent means of purifying gas from H_2S by a reagent that can be regenerated by oxidation. Up till now the danger from side reactions has dogged the work on the use of certain dyestuffs, and the present solution to the problem by the use of vanadates and anthraquinone disulphonic acids seems neat and a slight diversion from the original premises.

Mr. Coote's paper on the production of town gas from refinery gases at Romford we liked very much. Apart from the great value of the data he presented—the result of careful investigation and exact measurement—we felt that here might well be one of the younger generation of gas engineers from whom we may expect much more in the future. To have written a paper of this importance following one on this same works by his immediate chief and his then chief engineer, highlighted the value of Mr. Coote's different, though perhaps not individual, approach.

When we look back on such a successful meeting of the Institution as this has clearly been we have to ask ourselves, how can we put over our enthusiasm to the rest of the world and combat a belief held by some outside the industry, that the gas industry is still behind the times?

LINES OF COMMUNICATION—3

THE APPLICATION OF RESEARCH

By

W. H. JOHNSON

THERE is a recurring argument, which can continue inconclusively elsewhere, about the responsibility of scientists for the potential destructiveness of some of their inventions. What we need to bother about is the amount of constructive new thought and experiment which is never given a real chance to help or harm anyone.

This is a drastic statement, to be qualified only by the reservation that 'never' often means 'too late.' It is a distinction without effective difference.

I am not referring specifically to the gas industry, in which research is on a relatively small scale, and better publicised within its sphere of applicability than is the case with many industries. It is in the contiguous areas of knowledge that wastage occurs, through no direct fault of the gas industry.

The fault may lie elsewhere, but as long as the wastage continues excuses are not enough, and if the gas industry is the loser it ought to consider whether it can apply a remedy, for its own advantage.

This problem receives too little recognition. Among the bigger industrial concerns one may find a man who is paid to watch the foreign technical press for new and useful ideas, and sometimes to keep an eye on competitors at home and overseas. On a more general scale, one of the most progressive of the county councils has been trying for two years to begin running a liaison service for industries within its boundaries.

It would collect the latest information upon research relevant to each industry and present it for a very small annual fee to those concerned. It, also, is not to blame for present backwardness, but has the will to take steps to overcome it, for no better reason than that it is progressive.

Somewhere along the line, however, someone lacks the courage to buy the services of an officer to administer the scheme, and it remains just a good idea.

More than one look at the scope of investigatory work is necessary, in order to realise what benefits might be open to the gas industry from it; or at least, what new knowledge the industry might have a chance to know about, that it might accept, store or reject by its own decision.

Let us take just a passing look at some of the scope.

There is metallurgy. The industry is interested in metals; in burners and other equipment to withstand higher temperatures and thermal fatigue; in gasholders to stay uncorroded in spite of wet carbon dioxide, wind-and-water lines, thiocyanates and other gremlins. Coal was carbonised in metal retorts 100 years ago. If it were possible with modern conditions, who would put up with refractory brick?

On the other side there are many metallurgical research organisations, covering the ferrous varieties and many of the non-ferrous metals. A feature of these bodies is their real anxiety to help, because most of them owe their existence to pressure of competition from other materials.

There should be an area of fusion between the two sides,

for the industry to put forward problems as subjects for applied research, and for the research bodies to present their developments as widely and as intelligibly as possible.

Take building research, production engineering, electronics (we are still interested in foolproof long-distance recording and automation). Take, in fact, any dozen research organisations at random, and someone who ought to know what is currently afoot will find something to redden his ears with embarrassment.

Just for one, take laundry research. The cross-infection scare has led to a method of frequent and rapid sterilisation of hospital blankets by boiling. Thinking of the high latent heat of steam, and the likelihood of this being an impossible extra load for some laundry boilers, what about a thermostatic gas boiler?

Sitting in a chair advising others is not a particularly arduous undertaking. As a positive attitude it is, however, a grade above sitting and inventing reasons for not acting on the advice.

One such reason will certainly be that the contracting industries, by the nature of their functions, look after such matters.

They did, but surely we have been in long trousers for nearly 14 years? If it does happen to be true we might as well let the contractors run the industry. (At least they have the knack of showing a regular profit.)

It is a truism that there is no substitute for knowledge. And a corollary to that is that progress—survival, even—in competitive industry needs all the knowledge there is, as fresh as possible.

As to the ways and means, a small staff would be able to do all that is necessary, given well-trained and intelligent direction. Subscriptions amounting to a few hundred guineas a year would bring the raw material flooding in, to be abstracted, classified and retransmitted.

The cost of such a service is hardly measurable in concrete terms against the potential benefits, but if we must consider the guineas, we could and should let the contractors in for a fee. And are there not still a few 'grace and favour' appointments, due for demolition?

Technical developments

Coal handling blades : Electronic air filter

MICHIGAN (Great Britain) Ltd., has produced special purpose coal handling dozer blades for Models 180 and 280 tractor dozers. The blades are available from the company's Camberley works.

Designed and engineered to move rapidly bulk quantities of coal into stocking-out grounds or reclaim coal from stocks to feed hoppers, the Michigan coal blades have a larger radius of curvature than the standard blade, enabling the coal to be rolled more easily.

The coal blade is constructed in horseshoe shape and is not just a wing attached to the standard blade.

The Michigan Power Train system driving all four wheels on wide-base low-pressure tyres gives tractor dozers with coal handling blades, compaction densities of up to 70 lb. per cu.ft., reduction of the risk of spontaneous combustion, reduction of moisture seepage, reduction of coal contamination by crushing, and reducing track costs in this abrasive material.—*Michigan (Great Britain) Ltd.*

THE Trion electronic air filter has been redesigned to meet the arduous operating conditions encountered in industry, and it will in future be known as the Industrion electrical air filter.

The new filter is of much sturdier construction than its predecessor. The collecting cell is fabricated from a heavier gauge aluminium and the supporting framework and ionising section support bar have been strengthened. The insulators are now positioned out of the main air stream; this facilitates cleaning and ensures greater reliability.

There are now two standard sizes of power units which, in various combinations, meet the power requirements of individual installations. The electrical equipment is also more robust than before and now includes inherent current limitation which protects the equipment in the event of a short circuit. The larger unit is fitted with a constant voltage transformer to provide a stable and effective performance under varying atmospheric and dust loading conditions.

A further development is the introduction of a special heavy duty filter which is intended for use on applications where the dust burden is higher than that handled by the standard filter. With this heavy duty filter, pre-collectors of the multi-cell cyclone type are normally fitted to arrest any large particles which may be present in the extract system.

Heavy duty filters are normally arranged for dry removal of the dust, the complete filter section being vibrated to dislodge the collected dust which falls into storage hoppers below the filter. The cleaning operation takes only a few seconds and the filter can be immediately returned to line. One of the advantages of this system of cleaning is that the filter can be frequently cleaned, allowing a high dust burden to be handled.—*W. C. Holmes & Co. Ltd.*

Delegates—and the wives of delegates—photographed at the Victoria Coach Station, London, before boarding the vehicles which took them on the various visits organised in connection with the I.G.E. 98th A.G.M.

THE LIGHTER SIDE . . .

Mr. and Mrs. Poole (left); Mr. and Mrs. Whitehouse.

Mr. and Mrs. A. E. Lenthall.

Mr. R. M. Johnson and Mr. R. E. Robinson, North Thames Gas Board.

Mr. D. J. O. Bath, Mr. A. W. Brown, Mr. E. L. Faulkner, Mr. R. L. Jones, and Mr. M. J. Birch, Southern Gas Board.

Mrs. C. Stott; Mr. and Mrs. B. C. Hinwood.

Mr. L. A. Hedges ; Mr. D. G. Geall ; Mr. A. Byfield ; Mr. A. Clark; Mr. M. J. Le Cornu; Mr. J. York; Mr. W. H. Parker; Mr. D. J. Huggett; Mr. D. G. Farrent, and Mr. L. R. Airs.

Mrs. R. H. Anderson; Mr. J. Summerson; Mr. R. Summerson.

Mr. and Mrs. M. Howard ; Mrs. J. Henebery.

Mrs. G. C. Wood and Mrs. R. M. Johnson.

Mr. M. H. Westmacott, Mr. J. Martin, and Mr. A. H. Johnson, North Thames Gas Board.

Mr. A. L. Wade, Mr. K. G. Bodiley, and Mr. D. V. Norris, South Western Gas Board.

THEY WENT TO SEE

Kensington Palace

The visitors arrive (below), with them Mr. & Mrs. R. L. Greaves (right).

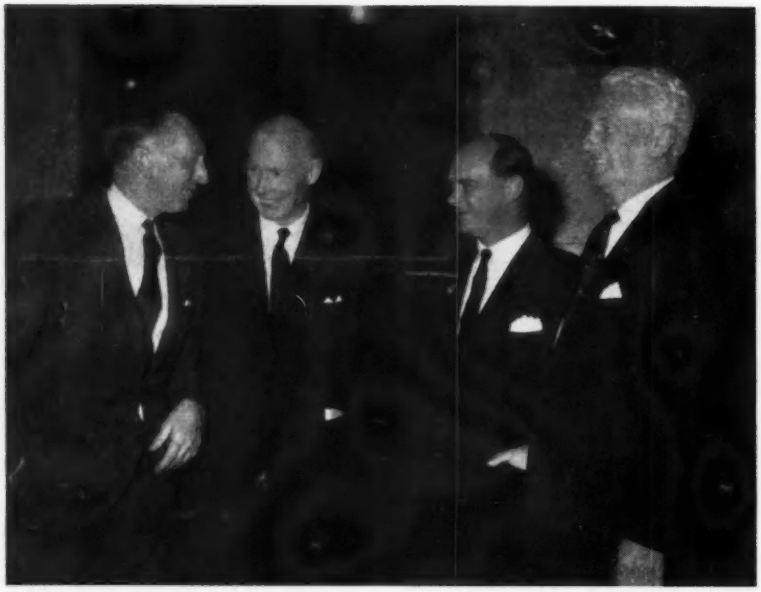
Mrs. D. W. Kay, and Mrs. G. Cookson (below).

Mrs. Higgins and Mrs. Braunholtz.

Mrs. E. N. Evans ; Mrs. T. W. Clapham ; Mrs. J. T. Badshaw ; Mrs. J. E. Mills.

Mrs. S. Bath and Mrs. C. B. Bulland (right).

Mrs. Cookson ; Mrs. Brown ; Mrs. Fowlds.



Mr. G. F. Kelly, Metropolitan Gas Meters; Mr. R. Hutchinson, The Bryan Donkin Co. Ltd.; Mr. T. W. Jackson, Chairman, South Western Section, I.G.E.; Mr. F. C. Gay, Bristol, Secretary, South Western Section, I.G.E.

Mr. E. Aspinall, Robert Dempster & Sons Ltd.; Mr. J. Powdrill, Cardiff; Mr. W. J. Baker, Bath.

98th AGM

• • • MORE PICTURES TAKEN AT CHURCH HOUSE, WESTMINSTER

Mr. S. C. Thomson, Clayton, Son & Co. Ltd.; Mr. A. J. Gamper & Mr. R. W. Latham, South Eastern Gas Board.

Mr. L. H. Wendon & Mr. F. S. Pollicott, Swindon; Mr. G. Turner, Birkenhead; Mr. G. Brook, Liverpool.

Seated: Mr. A. E. Morris, Mr. M. S. Gaskill, West's Gas Improvement Co. Ltd.; Standing: Mr. C. Dawson and Mr. N. E. Crass, West's Gas Improvement Co. Ltd.

Mr. W. T. Hird, Wales Gas Board; Mr. C. D. Shann, William Press Group; Mr. M. F. Scott, Wales Gas Board.

Mr. I. J. Harthill and Mr. A. H. Barrington, North Western Gas Board; Mr. H. Q. Marris, W. C. Holmes & Co. Ltd.

Mr. N. V. Cross, Woodall-Duckham Construction Co. Ltd.; Mr. D. C. Elgin and Mr. H. Burman, Scottish Gas Board; Mr. C. W. Nash, Woodall-Duckham Construction Co. Ltd.

Mr. E. O. Rose, Eastern Gas Board; Mr. H. E. Dyble, Woodall-Duckham Construction Co. Ltd.; Mr. D. E. Rooke, Gas Council.

Mr. C. Smith, Sheffield; Mr. W. Shryane, Worksop; Mr. H. Firth, Sheffield; Mr. M. Beevers, Barnsley.

Mr. A. C. Bureau, Henry Balfour & Co. Ltd.; Mr. D. S. Milnes and Mr. R. J. S. Thompson, W. C. Holmes & Co. Ltd.

Mr. O. S. Brettle, Mr. W. E. Plevin, West Midlands Gas Board; Mr. J. R. W. Alexander, Gas Officers' Guild; Mr. D. E. Terrace, Cape Town.

Mr. W. J. Shelley, Ministry of Power; Mr. W. Boden, Stanton Ironworks Co. Ltd.; Mr. L. P. Ingram, former Chief Engineer, South Western Gas Board; Mr. J. Powdrill, Cardiff.

Big News!

Stainless Steel and the revolutionary Sola Grill!

NEW

44 GAS COOKER

Exclusive Eye-Level SOLA Grill—The only grill which provides all-over even heat distribution, at Super, Fast or Normal tap setting. A tremendous advance —restaurant results from a domestic grill. Incorporates a new-design radiant burner.

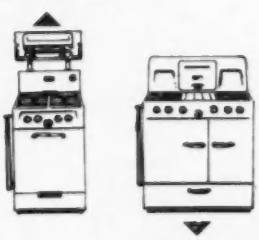
Four Stainless Steel Radaline Burners — with automatic lighting. Safety control taps with built-in low flame position.

Stainless Steel Removable Pan Rests form smooth working surface over which pans will slide easily and safely without lifting. Spilt liquids held in deep, easily-cleaned bowl.

Roomy, Quick-Heating Oven. Regulo is combined with oven tap—gas is turned on as Regulo is set. New pattern bright plated oven grid shelves. Impossible as it may sound—an even better than usual NEW WORLD performance.

New Removable Oven Top slides out in a second for easy cleaning.

Large Storage Drawer glides smoothly and silently on special nylon runners.



173 GAS COOKER

A brand-new development of the popular Rangette featuring the exclusive NEW WORLD *use of stainless steel. The 173 hotplate is similar to that of the 44, with stainless steel removable pan rests, four new Radaline 'fin-shaped' automatic-lighting burners, and safety control taps with built-in low flame position.*

Other useful features include:
Automatic-lighting Comfort Level Grill folds away for extra working space. Grill pan rests on easily removed stainless steel grid over easy-to-clean spillage well.

Roomy Quick-Heating Oven with the famous Regulo control.

Warming Chamber for plate warming or keeping food hot. Special non-tilting shelf opens out to hold plates upright.

Large Storage Compartment with drop door.

Chromium-plated press-button door handles.

Radiation Domestic Appliance Centre, 59-65 Baker Street, London, W1

Introduced at this year's Ideal Home Exhibition, these two bright newcomers from NEW WORLD *attracted tremendous interest and thousands of enquiries from Press and Public. The extensive use of hygienic, durable stainless steel, together with other outstanding new features, put them years ahead of any rivals.*

WORLD

AND 173 GAS COOKERS

For postal enquiries please write to the Head Office : Radiation New World Limited, Radiation House, North Circular Road, London, NW10. Telephone : WILlesden 1234

NEW WORLD

Saharan methane: French sign agreement with Gas Council

AN agreement on Saharan gas imports has been signed in Paris between the Gas Council, the French producer companies, and Conch International Methane, which will be responsible for shipping the gas from the Mediterranean to the U.K.

The agreement, stating the conditions under which gas could be supplied, has yet to be sanctioned by both Governments.

The Gas Council's detailed proposals will be submitted to the Minister of Power for approval. If this is granted shipments should commence within 2 or 2½ years.

If the agreement is approved by the two Governments the French producer companies, S. N. Repal and Compagnie Française des Pétroles, together with the Bureau de Recherches de Pétrole, Air Liquide, and Algerian investment companies, will build a gas liquefaction plant at Arzew, on the Algerian coast.

This plant will supply the British market with 1,000 mill. cu.m. of gas a year, equivalent to about 100 mill. cu.ft. a day—less than 10% of the U.K.'s present consumption.

This figure of 1,000 mill. cu.m. is about half the gas currently available for export from the Hassi R'Mel field. Plans are in hand for the export of 10,000 mill. cu.m. a year or more.

The industrial correspondent of the *Financial Times*, comments: 'Conch International Methane, which is jointly owned by Shell (40%), Continental Oil (40%), and Union Stockyard and Transit (20%), will soon place orders—probably with British shipyards—for tankers to carry the liquefied gas.

'The one important factor which has not yet been revealed is the price at which Saharan gas could be delivered to the U.K.

'According to a recent unofficial estimate, the price, after allowing for the costs of reforming it to town gas values, might be about 8d. a therm.

'This compares with an average cost of about 1s. a therm at conventional plants in the U.K.

'The position of the coal industry will obviously be an important factor in the Minister of Power's examination of the proposals. The Minister, the Hon. Richard Wood, has promised to make a statement in the Commons after arriving at his decision, but many Labour M.P.s are alarmed at the possible implications of the Gas Council's plan, and may demand a debate.

'The Council is evidently anxious to get the agreement approved as soon as possible. Saharan gas would provide the industry with one important means of reducing its costs and prices and thus of withstanding the intense competition from oil and electricity in the next few years.'

OTTO PLANT ORDER

SIMON-CARVES LTD. have been awarded a contract by the Eastern Gas Board for the supply and erection of an Otto continuous reforming plant at Dunstable works to produce 5 mill. cu.ft. per day of enriched town gas from l.p.g.

The order includes the supply of shift conversion plant for the detoxification of the gas and for feedstock storage and handling facilities.

NEWS SUPPLEMENT

APPRENTICE OF THE YEAR

A YOUNG apprentice at Glasgow Central Hotel, G. R. Davie, has won the national trophy as the hotel and catering industry's best apprentice of the year. He gained the award with a fine display of cooking in the final of the competition, held at the South Western Gas Board's showrooms at Torquay. Four apprentices competed in the final, which was held on the occasion of the International Gastronomic Festival.

The winner was awarded a silver salver by the Hotel and Catering Institute, the presentation being made by Mr. C. H. Chester, Chairman of the South Western Gas Board, at the International Gastronomic Festival prizegiving at Torquay Town Hall.

Tar plant for Australia

A SIMON ENGINEERING company—Chemical Engineering Wiltons Ltd.—has designed and engineered the first continuous tar distillation plant in Australia, and a naphthalene recovery plant, which are shortly to be erected by Simon-Carves (Australia) Pty. Ltd. to the order of Australian Iron & Steel Pty. Ltd.

Press visits Lurgi plant, Westfield

Journalists and Press photographers recently visited the Lurgi plant at Westfield, Fife. The party consisting of about 50 from London and 50 from Scotland, spent a day at the plant.

Preparations for the opening of the plant by the Queen on June 27 are now well in hand.

RECORD TRADING RESULTS

TURNOVER by the Engineering Division of Newton, Chambers & Co., Ltd., Thorncliffe, Sheffield, during the year was the highest ever achieved, but the profit margin was lower than in 1959, due to the more complicated and diverse nature of the work carried out. The 79th annual general meeting was held last week.

The circulated statement also says that work for the gas industry was marked by the completion of three tower purifier contracts and the first high pressure purification plant at Westfield, Fife.

The Emma coke-fired industrial type boilers were fully established during the year and numerous installations are now operating throughout the country.

The continued policy of the Company will be to market a range of appliances for all types of fuel which conform to modern design standards, meet the requirements of the Clean Air Act, and are economical and simple to use.

Development work has been intensified on solid fuel appliances and has begun on gas fire appliances.

GROUP PROFIT

The Group's gross trading profit has increased from £1,466,671 in 1959 to £1,649,923, and the pre-tax profit from £1,067,597 to £1,146,048, the highest profit yet achieved.

This figure includes the profits of the subsidiary companies acquired during the year, but in the case of George Royston & Son Ltd. includes only nine months' profit and in the case of Rhodes & Halmshaw Ltd. six months.

After providing £528,047 to cover income and profits tax the net consolidated profit amounted to £618,001, an increase of £59,904 over 1959.

In view of the increased profit the directors feel justified in recommending a final dividend of 12% (as was forecast in October when the rights issue was announced) to give a total of 20% for the year as against 17½%.

INSTITUTION CENTENARY SHOW PLAN

THE Institution of Gas Engineers will celebrate its centenary in two years' time and this year's President, Mr. H. S. Cheetham, told members of the London and Southern Section at their Spring Luncheon recently, that plans had already been made, with Mr. G. E. Currier as chairman of the panel.

It has been arranged to rent suitable premises to house an exhibition and area boards will be helping with models and exhibits.

Mr. Cheetham expressed appreciation on behalf of the Council of the Institution for the help that the section had given over the years. It was gratifying, he said, to report that the Institution was in good heart and membership was increasing. It was his impression that there were quite a number of Associate members who could rapidly qualify for membership. He hoped they would give some thought to this.

After referring to the enthusiasm he had found during visits to the various sections during his year of office Mr. Cheetham referred to the imminent retirement of Dr. W. T. K. Braunholtz, Secretary of the Institution, who he said would be helping with certain things after his retirement.

'I am sure everyone is most grateful to him for his work for us and the way he has carried out his duties. I think one has to be President of the Institution to fully appreciate the qualities of Dr. Braunholtz,' said Mr. Cheetham.

In a changing world they were trying new processes, plant and equipment and there was a tremendous feeling of confidence that they were making progress. What they needed was careful assessment of the economics of new processes and plant.

During the year they had seen a marked increase in gas consumption on domestic, commercial and industrial fronts. He thought people were coming to realise the service that gas could provide.

The Chairman of the London and Southern Section, Mr. J. A. Hepworth, said he had been extremely pleased at the tremendous interest shown by members during the session just ending.

Mr. R. M. Farror, the Senior Vice-Chairman, also paid tribute to the guests and especially Dr. Braunholtz and said that Mr. A. G. Higgins would soon be taking over. They were quite sure he would maintain the high traditions and wished him every success.

Dr. J. S. Carter, C.B.E., responded for the guests.

MISS THERM AT NEW READING SHOWROOM

Linda Shelley, Miss Therm of 1961, in the model kitchen which is a feature at Reading's new gas showroom. Here she is seen at the official opening with, from left to right, Mr. W. H. Elkerton, Commercial Manager of the Southern Gas Board; the Mayoress of Reading, Mrs. C. R. Evans; Mrs. C. H. Leach who officially opened the showroom, and Mr. C. H. Leach, Chairman of the Southern Gas Board; and the Mayor of Reading, Alderman C. R. Evans.

ONE DEGREE DOWN, BUT £200,000 UP

A ONE degree drop in the average temperature over the area covered by the North Eastern Gas Board for the 12 months ended March 31, compared with the average temperature for the previous twelve months, meant an increase of about £200,000 in the Board's revenue.

This was stated by County Alderman Harry Sutcliffe, Chairman of the North Eastern Gas Consultative Council, at their May meeting, when the Council discussed gas output figures and figures relating to sales of gas appliances.

Alderman Sutcliffe said that gas output was 1.2% higher than in 1959-60, although 0.3% below the budget figure which was based on average temperatures. At the same time, he further explained, last year's average temperature was one degree below that of the previous year, although still one degree higher than for the average of the past 10 years.

The increased output of 1.2% brought in £200,000 for the additional amount of gas sold.

Ald. Sutcliffe said the most striking advance in sales had been with central heating boilers. The sales had risen from 72 in 1957-58 to 877 last year. Over a period of four years sales of gas fires had risen from 2,716 to 9,776.

The slight drop in the sales of cookers was probably due to hire purchase restrictions imposed about 12 months ago.

Southern has award scheme for apprentices

THE Southern Gas Board's training of gasfitting apprentices depends a great deal on the facilities provided at Technical Colleges in the Board's Area. Based on colleges in Poole, Southampton, Portsmouth, Reading and Oxford, the training, which includes a first year of full-time study, is proving to be most successful and the board are extremely satisfied with the facilities granted by the local authorities concerned.

The board, therefore, feel that apprentice training has reached a stage when they can introduce an annual award scheme. Two awards will go to candidates at each of the five centres named above, one of £5 for a finals candidate, and one of £4 for an intermediate candidate. Successful candidates will also receive certificates.

Awards will be made on the basis of a review of the work of all candidates which will take into account all aspects of the apprentice's work, including examination results, work in college and work on the district. The assessors will include representatives of the technical college and of the board's training and education and commercial departments.

The Training and Education Officer, Mr. D. L. Hill, says: 'I am delighted that a stage in our gasfitting training has now been reached which makes this idea possible. It is also a particularly appropriate way for us to mark the year in which the Duke of Edinburgh's Commonwealth Technical Training Week is being held.'

BCURA ANNUAL REPORT

THE annual report of the British Coal Utilisation Research Association states that work under contract for the Ministry of Power on complete gasification of coal, commended by the (Wilson) Committee on Coal Derivatives, has continued, special emphasis being placed on developments likely to lead to high thermal efficiency and throughput, and to reliable performance, especially in respect of slag removal.

Measurements of the temperature-viscosity characteristics of slags, from the experimental gasifier and from cyclone-fired boilers, have been made and their correlation with chemical composition studied.

Research to improve efficiency in the use of producer gas has continued, and one of the examples reported is assistance in an investigation of the use of oxygen for reducing sulphur pick-up by the change in a producer-gas-fired steel melting furnace.

Further advance has been made in understanding the structure of the coal molecule. Work on the mechanism of coking has included more detailed study of the thermal stability of the fusible volatile solids obtained by vacuum carbonisation of coals.

Interaction between this fusible fraction and the infusible matrix may considerably affect the rate of decomposition of the coal during coking.

The report records the visit of the Duke of Edinburgh on May 13. It also gives abstracts of 50 of the Association's reports and published papers, as well as the usual list of personnel of the council, the various committees, and of members and the research staff.

The balance sheet and statement of accounts show an increase since last year of just over £26,000 in the total income (£452,800); this was due mainly to income from contracts and fully-endowed research.

Copies of the report, price 10s. may be obtained from the Liaison and Publications Officer, B.C.U.R.A., Randalls Road, Leatherhead, Surrey.

COMING EVENTS

June 12.—NORTHERN G.C.C.: Northern Gas Board, 30, Grainger Street, Newcastle upon Tyne. 11.15 a.m.

June 16.—MIDLAND JUNIORS: Birmingham. Ladies' Day. 11 a.m.

June 16.—NORTHERN JUNIORS: Van Arms Hotel, High Street, Stockton. Annual General Meeting. 12.30 p.m.

June 17. — MANCHESTER DISTRICT JUNIORS: Ladies' Day. Derbyshire Silica Firebrick Co. (Friden).

June 17.—WESTERN JUNIORS: Summer Meeting and Ladies' Day.

June 20.—I.G.E., LONDON AND SOUTHERN SECTION: Summer Meeting. Visit to Gorhambury, St. Albans.

OBITUARY

MR. S. H. JONES, who was a director of the Commercial Gas Company, has died. Born in 1875, Mr. Jones was engineer and general manager of the Commercial Gas Company before becoming a director. Among his other directorships were those of the Bombay and Oriental Gas Companies. Mr. Jones retired in 1949 after being connected with the gas industry for more than 50 years.

PERSONAL NOTES

MR. S. G. DEAVIN, O.B.E., secretary and member of the North Western Gas Board, has been appointed Deputy Chairman of the North Eastern Gas Board in succession to MR. GEORGE CURRIER, O.B.E., who has retired. Mr. Deavin, who has been secretary of the North Western Gas Board since vesting date, entered the gas industry in 1933 as chief accountant of the Preston Gas Company and a few years later was appointed secretary and accountant. While with the Preston Gas Company Mr. Deavin was appointed vice-chairman of the Lancashire and District Coke Association, a member of the Central Committee of the National Federation of Gas Coke Associations and a member also of the Management Committee of the British Gas Council—North Western Division. On the nationalisation of the industry he was appointed secretary of the North Western Gas Board. In 1958 he was appointed an Officer of the Most Excellent Order of the British Empire. Last July he was appointed a full-time member of the North Western Gas Board while still retaining his office as secretary.

MR. K. J. BUSH, has been appointed Assistant Sales Manager, Mechanical Thermometer Division, of the Cambridge Instrument Co. Ltd. MR. W. C. ORFORD, MR. S. V. J. CRUMP and MR. W. A. HALL have been appointed Assistant Resident Engineers at the Company's branch offices in Nottingham, Bristol and Manchester respectively.

MR. F. C. REA, O.B.E., T.D., of Portsmouth, has been re-appointed Chairman of the Southern Gas Consultative Council and, by virtue of this office, Mr. Rea will continue as a part-time member of the Southern Gas Board.

MR. A. H. N. WELLS of London, has been appointed Deputy Chairman of the North Thames Gas Consultative Council in succession to COUNCILLOR F. G. EXTON, of Willesden.

MR. H. F. COLLISON of Cheshunt, Hertfordshire, has been appointed a part-time member of the North Thames Gas Board.

MRS. G. REES, of Kidwelly, Carmarthenshire, has been appointed a member of the Wales Gas Consultative Council.

MR. G. U. HOPTON is Director of the Gas Council's London Research Station and not, as stated in our review of the I.G.E. meeting last week, Chief Research Chemist of the North Thames Gas Board.

MR. W. D. KING, chairman of Radiation Ltd., has retired. Mr. King joined Radiation in 1921 with Richmonds Gas Stove Company, in 1933 was appointed sales manager of that Company and in 1939, sales director. In 1943 he became general manager of Richmonds and Fletcher Russell, in 1946 was appointed managing director of those Companies, and two years later became their chairman and managing director. In 1944 he became a director of Radiation Ltd. In 1950 he was also elected chairman of Wilson's & Mathiesons Ltd. He relinquished his duties in charge of production of the northern group of Radiation in 1953, and was appointed technical director and deputy chairman. Mr. King became chairman in 1956.

Elliott Brothers (London) Ltd., a member of the Elliott-Automation Group, is holding a private symposium and exhibition on analytical instrumentation of industrial process control at the Connaught Rooms, London, on June 13 and 14.